HERALD EX 11/16/67

JFK Head Motion Slaying Factor

NEW YORK (UPI) — One of the key factors in the argument of scholar Josiah Thompson that President Kennedy was killed in a crossfire ambush is the movement of Kennedy's head in the last moments of his life.

By studying superimposed sequential slides made from the movie taken by bystander Abraham Zapruder, Thompson contends that there was a double movement of Kennedy's head, first forward, then a tremendous wrench backward and to the left.

Thompson believes this resulted from the impact of a bullet fired from the Texas Book Depository Building to the rear and then from a bullet fired from a grassy knoll to the front and side of the presidential car.

In order to obtain accurate measurements of the movement, the author studied enlargements of the frames of the movie through a dissecting microscope. The forward movement measured an acceleration of 60.6 feet per second and 1/16th of a second later the movement reversed with a backward acceleration of 100.3 feet per second.

Thompson said the film shows that the President's head did not strike any fixed surface of the car to cause a reversal in the movement. There was no sudden braking or acceleration of the car, and no movement on Mrs. Kennedy's part to grab her husband.

The author concludes that the reversal of the head movement was a reaction to the almost simultaneous impact of two bullets from different directions. His book quotes Assistant Counsel Wesley J. Liebeler of the Warren Commission as saying the commission "never paid much attention" to the President's head movement.